



STATE OF WASHINGTON

COMMISSION ON HISPANIC AFFAIRS
COMISIÓN DE ASUNTOS HISPANOS

Leo Gaeta,
Chair

December 5, 2003

Yvonne Lopez-Morton,
Vice Chair

Diana Avalos,
Executive Committee

Homero Tamez,
Executive Committee

Gabriel Banfi

Faviola Barbosa

Edward Davila

Uriel Iñiguez

Karla Padilla-Reyna

Gabriel Portugal

Rebecca Villareal

Antonio M. Ginatta,
Executive Director

James A. Medina

External Civil Rights Manager, Office of Equal Opportunity

Washington State Department of Transportation

PO Box 47314

Olympia, WA 98504-7314

Dear Jim:

Thanks for taking the time to talk with us about the concerns raised by the Latino community in the town of Brewster. To briefly recap, the Commission on Hispanic Affairs met in September with representatives of the Latino community of Brewster for a regularly-scheduled public meeting. At that meeting, a community member raised a concern about pedestrian safety alongside Bridge Street, a portion of WA-173. According to the community member, Bridge Street carries a significant amount of pedestrian traffic, including children walking to Brewster high school, but has no sidewalks for a majority of its length through town. At the same time, many vehicles use the street as a connector thruway between Brewster and Bridgeport. This heavy usage may place the residents of the town and its outskirts in some danger.

The city of Brewster, as you may know, is primarily a Latino agricultural town. 60% of the town's residents are of Hispanic origin, and 60% speak Spanish at home. More than half of all the households make less than \$25,000 a year; almost 3 out of every 4 students in the Brewster School District qualify for free or reduced-price lunch.

We hope that the Department of Transportation can review the safety of the portion of WA-173 that runs through Brewster. If WSDOT determines that a sidewalk is necessary in that area, we hope that such plans are included in your construction plans as soon as feasible. We hope that you can keep the Commission apprised of your progress on this matter.

1210 Eastside St. 1st Floor PO Box 40924 Olympia, WA 98504-0924
Toll-Free: (800) 443-0294 Olympia: (360) 753-3159 Fax: (360) 753-0199
hispanic@cha.wa.gov www.cha.wa.gov

Once again, we thank you and the Department of Transportation for reviewing this community request. Please contact me if we can be of further assistance on this matter.

Sincerely,

Antonio M. Ginatta
Executive Director